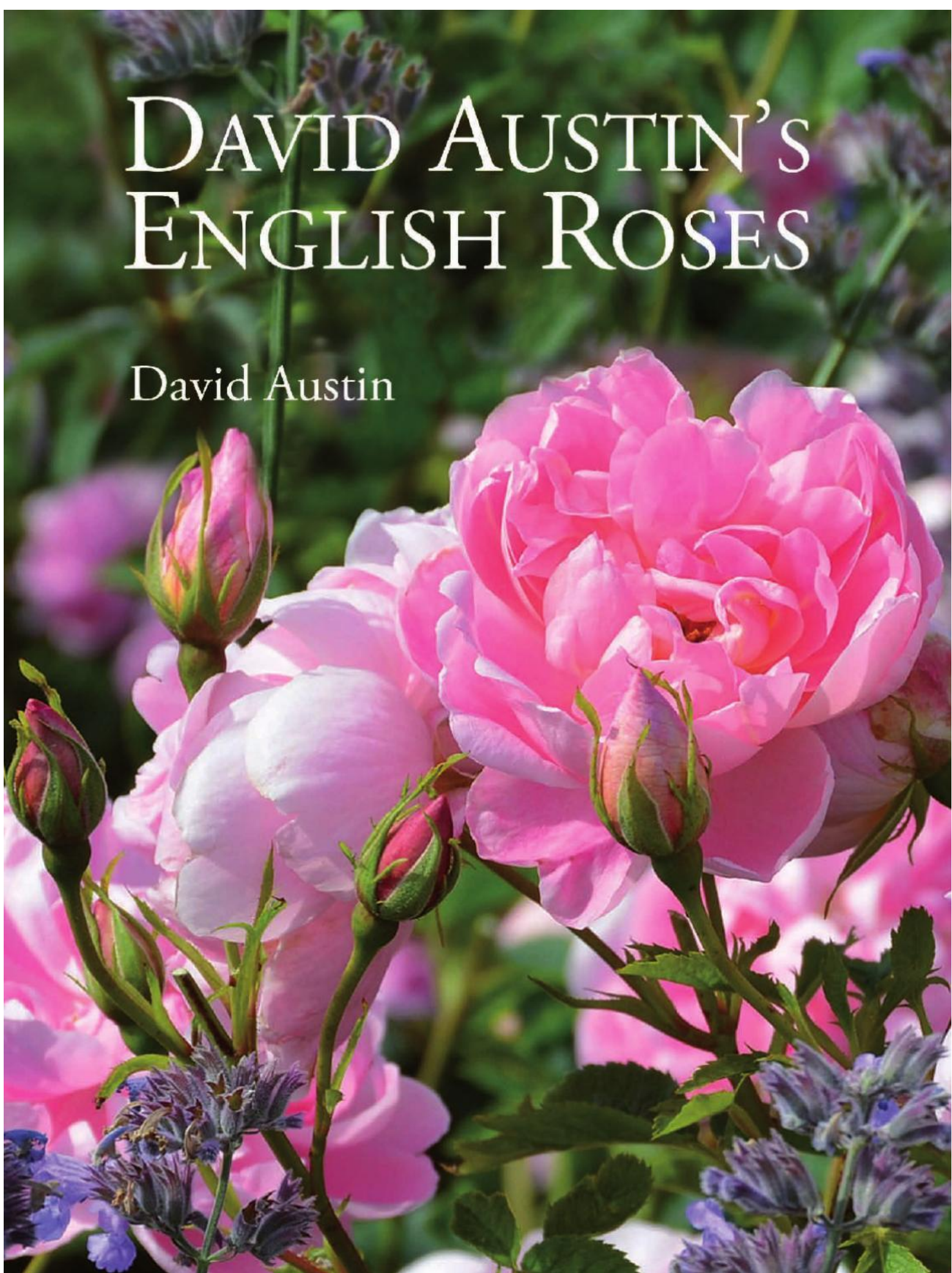


# DAVID AUSTIN'S ENGLISH ROSES

David Austin



VISIT...

LANZAROTE  
*Caliente*.COM







# CONTENTS

|                                      |     |
|--------------------------------------|-----|
| Introduction                         | 7   |
| The English Roses                    | 8   |
| The Development of the English Roses | 10  |
| The Classification of English Roses  | 14  |
| English Old Rose Hybrids             | 16  |
| The Leander Group                    | 84  |
| English Musk Roses                   | 123 |
| English Alba Rose Hybrids            | 164 |
| English Roses Cultivation            | 176 |
| Glossary                             | 180 |
| Bibliography                         | 182 |
| Index                                | 183 |

## THE CLASSIFICATION OF ENGLISH ROSES

The English Roses differ from other roses in the following respects. They are shrub roses rather than the upright bushes we have become accustomed to in the Hybrid Teas and Floribundas which were originally developed to grow in rose beds rather than the garden generally. This does not mean that English Roses are necessarily shrubs of large growth. They may sometimes be shorter than the Hybrid Teas and Floribundas, but the difference is that they have full, bushy growth, or arching growth similar to that which we might find in any other garden shrub. However, most of them are rather larger than this—around 1.2m / 4ft in height. Others may be still larger—even very large shrubs. So, as you can see, we get a great variety of growth, our idea being that roses should be of natural appearance and able to mix with other plants in the border to good effect. The flowers, too, are of all the different shapes that we find in the Old Roses and many gradations between. Their fragrance is particularly strong and beautiful and varies widely between one variety and another. The number of different fragrances we find in English Roses is far greater than in any other group of whatever age.

As a result of all this diversity, it has become obvious that English Roses need some kind of classification if gardeners are to understand them and be able to choose which variety best suits the situation in which they intend to plant them. Consequently, I have divided them into the following four groups. None of these groups has any particular botanical significance; rather, they are each of them more a collection of roses of like type. This usually means that their foundation parents were also of similar type. I should first, however, warn my reader that these groups are by no means clear-cut, one group inevitably running into the others in some degree. They are as follows: Old Rose Hybrids, The Leander Group, The English Musk Roses and The Alba Rose Hybrids.

Here I describe the English Roses that I still consider worth growing in gardens today, bearing in mind that we first introduced them half a century ago and, inevitably, many of the earlier introductions have been superseded by superior varieties. These roses were all bred by me at our Nurseries at Albrighton in Shropshire, but I have tried to be as fair in my judgement as possible. On the one hand, I may be a little biased in their favour since they are, so to speak, my ‘children’, and on the other hand, I probably know them better than anyone else and, as the breeder, I am or should be their severest critic.

*Facing page, With its charming cupped rosette flowers of the purest deep yellow, the popular*  
**Graham Thomas**  
*(foreground) forms part of the English Musk Roses group.*









Above, **Mrs Doreen Pike** is *Rugosa* in appearance although the flowers are of very beautiful Old Rose form

Facing page, **Munstead Wood** bears flowers that become deep velvety crimson as the centre is revealed

**Mrs Doreen Pike** (*Ausdor*) I am never quite sure whether I should place this rose with the *Rugosas* or with the English Roses. It certainly has some *Rugosa* in its make-up but it is, in fact, some distance removed from that group. One thing that it does have is the hardiness and disease-resistance of a *Rugosa*. The flowers are quite small, of rosette shape, medium pink in colour and produced on arching stems. They have a strong Old Rose fragrance. It forms a beautifully shaped, mounded shrub and is pleasing even in spring, when it produces its first leaves. Its great merit is its tough reliability and it can be depended upon to grow even in poor conditions. Doreen Pike was, for a long time, our Office Manageress at David Austin Roses and was a great stalwart in the early years. 120 × 90cm / 4 × 3ft. 1993.

**Munstead Wood** (*Ausbernard*) New deep crimson roses are always a welcome addition to our collection. The flowers of this variety are in fact light crimson in the bud but, as the centre gradually reveals itself, it becomes a very deep velvety crimson while the outer petals remain rather lighter in colour. They are large and cupped at first, becoming shallowly cupped with time. As the flower ages glimpses of the stigma and stamens appear amongst the petals. The growth is quite bushy, forming a broad shrub with good disease-resistance. The leaves are mid-green; the younger leaves being red-bronze to form a nice contrast. There is a strong Old Rose fragrance with a fruity note. Our fragrance expert, Robert Calkin, assesses this as 'warm and fruity with blackberry, blueberry and damson'. Munstead Wood was Gertrude Jekyll's own garden in Surrey where she worked on her many gardening books. 90 x 75cm/3 x 2.5ft. 2007.









***The Countryman***  
is a very beautiful and  
healthy rose with a  
particularly delicious Old  
Rose and strawberry  
fragrance

**The Countryman** (*Ausman*) Like 'Gertrude Jekyll', this is a cross between an English Rose and a Portland rose and it may be helpful to refer back to my remarks on 'Gertrude Jekyll'. The flowers are quite large, loosely double rosettes, deep pink in colour, with an exceptionally fruity Old Rose fragrance. For me, they have something of the spirit of the peonies we see in Chinese and Japanese paintings, both in character and the way in which they grow on the plant, although they are, in reality, much smaller. The leaves have something of the character of a Portland Rose, quite large with well spaced leaflets, and exceptionally healthy. It is important to remove the dead flowers to encourage quick new growth, and we can then expect two good periods of flower, although there will only be occasional blooms in between. 90 x 100cm/3 x 3½ft. 1987.









Facing page, **Golden Celebration** is an excellent all-round variety, ideal with other shrubs in a border

Above, **Grace** has numerous unusually narrow petals that give the flower a very different appearance

**Golden Celebration** (*Ausgold*) I have always taken the view that sheer size of bloom is no great virtue in a rose, yet this is one of the largest-flowered of the English Roses. They are in the form of magnificent golden cups which hold their shape to the end. In spite of their size, they are never ungainly. I think this is because they are so gracefully held, slightly nodding, on long, arching branches. They have a strong Tea scent at first, later developing hints of Sauternes wine and strawberry. The shrub itself is quite big and is of a suitable size for the flower. Later in the season, we can expect a larger crop of flowers but these will be rather smaller and not quite so deeply cupped. The foliage is large, glossy, light green and resistant to disease. 1.2 × 1.2m / 4 × 4ft. 1992.

**Grace** (*Auskeppy*) A rose with a strong individuality due, I think, to its unusually narrow petals that give the flower a very different appearance. These petals are numerous and gradually turn back to form a large, domed rosette with the hint of a button eye. Their colour is a lovely shade of apricot—deeper in the centre—and fading almost to white at the edges. All this provides us with flowers that are both charming and elegant. There is a delicious warm and sensuous fragrance. The blooms are held on an excellent shrub of rather broad, arching growth. It is vigorous, healthy and repeat flowers well. In every way, an excellent garden plant. 1.2 × 1.2m / 4 × 4ft. 2001.









***Heritage*** produces flowers in sprays on smooth stems with few thorns

**Heritage** (*Ausblush*) With 'Graham Thomas', this was one of the first English Roses of the Noisette group and it has all the delicate beauty we would expect of such a rose. Its flowers are of medium size and of a most perfect cupped formation. Their colour is a soft blush pink and the petals within the cup are each placed with exquisite perfection, giving it a shell-like beauty. The flowers are produced in small—and occasionally large—sprays. There is a lovely fragrance which has been described as having overtones of fruit, honey and carnation on a myrrh background. The stems are smooth with few thorns and typical, pointed Hybrid Musk Rose foliage. In growth and leaf 'Heritage' has much in common with the rose 'Graham Thomas', which shares the same parentage. It forms a nice, shapely rounded shrub, breaking freely along the stem to produce further flowers. If it has a fault, it is that it has a tendency to disease and needs to be sprayed. 1.2 × 1.2m / 4 × 4ft. 1984.



**Jayne Austin** (*Ausbreak*) This is truly a beautiful rose. The flowers are shallowly cupped at first, later becoming rosette shaped. They are yellow, tending a little towards apricot—the outer petals being paler—and their petals have the lovely silky sheen that we find in the Noisette Roses and their descendants. The growth of this rose is slender and upright—perhaps a little too much so—a tendency it owes to its parent, ‘Graham Thomas’. The leaves are plentiful and pale green. It has a wonderful Tea Rose fragrance. Named after my daughter-in-law. 1.1m / 3½ft. 1990.

**Jayne Austin** bears beautiful, shallowly cupped flowers that have a strong Tea fragrance

